Electors Photo Identity Cards

†3624. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several voters still don't have Electors Photo Identity Cards;

(b) if so, the number of such electors, State-wise; and

(c) whether any time-limit has been fixed for completion of the work for making such cards?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of Hindi in lower courts

†3625. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindi Advisory Committee has recommended that Hindi or the regional languages should be used in the lower courts;

(b) if so, whether full implementation of this recommendation has been possible; and

(c) if not, the reasons for this neglect and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Information is being collected from the concerned quarter and will be laid on the Table of the House, in due course.

(b) and (c) The District Courts and Courts subordinate to them functioning in all the States are under the administrative control of the State Government and the concerned High Court. The concerned High Court and the concerned State Government regulates the language used in these Courts.

Commission for speedy disposal of cases

†3626. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government proposes to constitute any special commission or a committee to give suggestion about speedy disposal of civil and criminal cases and for improvement in judicial procedure;

(b) if so, the details thereof, as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise as Government has taken several steps for speedy disposal of cases and improvement in judicial procedure. The Government has decided to create 152 additional posts of judges in the High Courts. The Government has also approved the increase in the judge strength of the Supreme Court from the present 25 to 30 excluding the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Chief Justice of India. Government is implementing a scheme for computerization of District and Subordinate Courts which includes upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of the Superior Courts. Fast Track Courts have been set up for speedy disposal of long pending Sessions cases and the cases involving undertrials in jails. Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged. Some legislative measures have also been introduced for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and criminal cases in courts.

Electoral reforms

3627. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the reforms suggested by the Election Commission is under consideration of Government;

(b) the details of reforms which are under Government's consideration;

(c) by when Government proposes to introduce necessary Bill in Parliament to incorporate decisions regarding the reforms accepted by Government;

(d) whether the Election Commission has brought into force any of the reforms suggested by them, to incorporate in the Statutes through orders under Article 324 of the Constitution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission of India has forwarded to the Government of India a set of 22 proposals on electoral reforms, the details of which have been made available for general information of the public by the Election Commission's Press Note No. ECI/PN/26/2004 dated 2.8.2004. The process of reform of electoral laws is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties and at present on the decision of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, the entire matter of electoral reforms has been referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice for examination and report which *inter alia* includes the proposals made by the Election Commission.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Elevation from lower judiciary to High Courts

3628. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bar Council of India has recently protested against the rule barring Judges of lower judiciary aged above 58½ years from being elevated to the High Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and